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MINUTES OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON

EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

29 April 1955

Present

Members: John Lacey, State  
Richard Bauer, Army ✓  
LTJG Richard W. Hanson, Navy  
Capt. Thomas H. Rivenbark, Air Force (for Maj. Neumann)

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Consultants:

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1. The 48th meeting convened at 1400 hours, and the minutes of the 47th meeting were approved with the following emendations:

a. Air (Capt Rivenbark): Paragraph 3, Index of "Le Monde." Air Force has only a slight interest but favors the majority opinion. Paragraph 4, Air Force does not receive the Embassy Reports and therefore cannot comment on their usefulness, but feels that some duplication is inevitable and justifiable.

b. State (Mr. Lacey): The correct spelling of the doctor's name in Paragraph 1a. is "Pauw." Paragraph 16 - State does not concur in the shift of "Civil Defense" to the military report but wants to make sure that the title of the new section will be "Civil Defense and Paramilitary." Mr. Lacey stated that State supported the CIA proposal for an index of "Le Monde" and hoped that it could be reconsidered when the Subcommittee examines the Western Europe program. The Chairman stated that it could.

c. Army (Mr. Bauer): Paragraph 4, last sentence, delete "particularly."

2. Southeast Asia Program

State: Mr. Lacey stated that he had the considered reactions from the analysts. The liaison is good and the performance is good. The format is acceptable and the content is somewhat useful but, as outlined in State's

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original statement of needs, they need information for NIS and basic research purposes. Due to the time lag, FDD cannot service the daily needs but can provide material of long-lasting utility. Reported material is now mostly of the current type. State needs more new basic information. Secondly, there is a particular need for coverage of native language material. The French and Dutch Southeast Asian press is only of marginal utility. Seventy-five percent of the Burmese material is filed by the analysts and all hope that these reports will be published on only one side of the page to facilitate this filing. Such things as cabinet changes, exchanges between Chou En-lai and UN, etc., should not be covered by FDD, as they are fully covered by other sources. The Philippines' report shows considerable improvement in organization and State should like to get editorial comment, especially in connection with the forthcoming election. They also hope that other Tagalog material can be exploited. The Indo-China report is weak for State's needs. They need coverage of the publications of Laos and Cambodia and hope the Procurement Subcommittee will help secure more source material on these areas as well as North Viet Nam. The overall weakness is too great a stress on the French press. In Indonesia the need is for better coverage of the native press. Coverage of "dissidence" is almost too raw in form for State's needs. Regarding the proposals, State does not like the combined report as they, in DRF, are organized by country desks. They much prefer reports country by country.

Army: Mr. Bauer stated that the Indonesian analysts were satisfied with FDD's report, considering the limitation in personnel. No change is desired in the present format. The Indo-China report is useful and no change is suggested. Embassy press translations are scanned occasionally and there is some noted duplication, but it is no problem to Army as these press reviews from the field are not particularly useful to the analysts. There are no objections to the FDD proposals.

Navy (Lt. Bates): Timeliness is the main consideration. Navy concurs with Mr. Lacey and would like to see emphasis on long-lasting items. They would like to see the Overseas Chinese Report issued more often and would like reports printed on one side of the page. There is no objection to the proposed change.

Air Force (Capt. Rivenbark): Concurred with State but has no objection to proposed changes.

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CIA: [REDACTED] stated that CIA is generally happy with the program but desires printing on one side of the page. Hopes further effort will be made to procure more North Viet Nam publications. One publication is being published, "Commerce and Industry of Today," which they would like to see covered. Political and cultural reporting seems to overshadow economic. They hope more stress will be given to economic subjects. There is no objection to proposed changes provided the Indo-China coverage does not suffer.

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[REDACTED] Stated that he generally agreed with what had been previously said. Would like the start of a new country on a new page in the reports. Would like to see the Communist Party from Indonesia covered. As to the Overseas Chinese report, CIA would like to see the Overseas Chinese press of Latin America covered also. There is good biographic coverage at the higher levels of officialdom but would like more coverage of lower echelons.

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NSA: [REDACTED] wished to see greater coverage of the native press. NSA notes considerable duplication with FBIS in FDD's reports on Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, the Philippines and [REDACTED]. The Indonesian report, except for some duplication, is very good. NSA would like to see the coverage of dissident activity extended. NSA has no need for the Philippine and [REDACTED] reports. Printing on one side of the page is desired for other reports.

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The Chairman, in review, stated that FDD would look especially into the needs expressed, (1) reports printed on one side of the page, (2) less emphasis on current reporting and greater coverage of basic and long-lasting information, and (3) greater use of vernacular sources, while limiting French and Dutch sources to basic material on specific request. Dissident activity in Indonesia will continue to be covered and if possible, expanded. The Chairman also stated that FDD would seek to work out a solution for the desire for reports by area, and coverage of Overseas Chinese in Latin America.

3. The Chairman stated that he hoped that the transliteration tables distributed by the Foreign Language Publications Committee were being used, as there was a pressing need for standardization. He asked for comments from the members as to whether there had been any follow-up in the form of regulation in the agencies after distribution. Mr. Bauer stated that 500 copies had been sent by Army to the field, with instructions to use them.

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Mr. Lacey, Miss Swift, and [REDACTED] requested copies. Members will comment later.

4. Agenda for the next meeting will be a) review of the Near East, South Asia and Africa program; b) comments on transliteration practices.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 13 May 1955 in Room 2125 M Building, at 1400 hours.

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